



KEY SENATE PANEL APPROVES MORE THAN \$133 MILLION FOR HAWAII PROGRAMS

Agriculture, Interior, and Transportation Initiatives Set to Receive Funding

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye announced this evening that a key Senate committee has unanimously approved the appropriation of more than \$133 million for Hawaii-related agricultural, interior, and transportation initiatives.

“Committee approval underscores the importance that these many programs have for Hawaii,” said Senator Inouye, a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The funding for the Hawaii programs are in three appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2005 that the Senate Appropriations Committee passed earlier tonight. The measures now advance to the Senate for approval.

Some of the key initiatives approved this evening by the Senate Appropriations Committee are set forth below, with a listing of other projects for each department beginning on page 6:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

“The agriculture-related funding which totals about \$18.7 million will bring the U.S. Pacific Basin Agriculture Research Center closer to completion, continue important work to strengthen the State’s agriculture and aquaculture sectors, and help to ensure that we remain vigilant in controlling and keeping invasive alien species out of our islands.

“I am also pleased to report that included in the Agriculture Appropriations Bill is a waiver that will allow the vast majority of agricultural lands in Hawaii to be eligible for and to receive conservation funding support, without regard to the adjusted gross income limitations. This waiver means that Hawaii’s public and private landowners could collectively garner about \$77 million through existing Farm Bill programs to restore native ecosystems and forests, and in doing so increase the endangered species populations, the quality of ground water supplies, and reduce sediment and runoff to better preserve our coral reefs. I applaud our farmers and ranchers for their willingness to utilize their lands for such laudable purposes. This waiver puts federal dollars on the table to support their efforts,” Senator Inouye stated.

U.S. Pacific Basin Agriculture Research Center (PBARC)

Laboratory Construction

\$3 million

This appropriation is for phase two construction of the U.S. Pacific Basin Agriculture Resource Center’s laboratory at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. The Center will address the agricultural concerns of growers in tropical and subtropical environments in Hawaii and U.S. territories in the Pacific. It will achieve economies of scale by sharing certain facilities with the soon-to-be-built Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry. Since Fiscal Year 2000, the Congress has appropriated more than \$24.8 million toward the planning and construction of the Center.

Research

\$1.504 million

These funds are for research programs which will be used to support new research and outreach involving the Agricultural Research Service, the College of Agriculture at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, and the College of Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Of this amount, \$250,000 will be used to implement PBARC’s staffing plan.

Pre-clearance Quarantine Inspections

\$3 million

This appropriation funds a program, authorized by an amendment introduced by Senator Inouye to the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, that relieves the State of Hawaii of the cost of agriculture inspections at Neighbor Island airports. Those inspections are federally mandated, and cost the State approximately \$3 million annually.

Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture Research

\$2.237 million

These funds, half of a \$4.474 million appropriation shared with Florida, will be used to continue agriculture research programs that are applicable to growers in tropical and subtropical regions. The program studies methods to prevent and control invasive alien species, with the ultimate goal of lowering quarantine requirements. This goal is a priority for Pacific and Caribbean farmers because quarantine is one of their most significant trade barriers.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

“The Department of Interior appropriations will provide \$30 million to Hawaii, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for impacts from the Compacts of Free Association. Citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Palau come to Hawaii to take advantage of the many opportunities we have. While we welcome our fellow islanders, their needs place added burdens on our social service providers. Compact impact aid helps the State to meet the increased demand for social services.

“In addition to Hawaii’s share of these Compact impact funds, legislative language was included to create a claims process for hospitals in Hawaii that treat indigent Compact migrants. Once this process is established, the federal government can rise to meet its obligations to support the Compact it negotiated.

“The Department of Interior will also nurture the beauty and history of Hawaii by expanding Puuhonua o Honaunau National Park, continuing the acquisition process for the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, and preserving the historic buildings of Kalaupapa,” Inouye stated.

Compacts of Free Association Impact Aid

\$30 million

Puuhonua o Honaunau National Park

Expansion

\$4.6 million

The requested funds will purchase a 238-acre expansion of the Puuhonua o Honaunau National Park and bring the balance of the historic Kiilae Village site, with its human habitation record stretching back nearly a thousand years, within the park's boundaries. This property is extremely rich in pre-history and provides important clues about ancient Hawaiian life. Agricultural structures, stone piles, and walls are interspersed among recreational areas and the burial sites of the villagers. Acquisition of this area is crucial to protect extraordinary early Hawaiian cultural sites and expand the public understanding and interpretation of cultural traditions and Hawaiian subsistence patterns.

Removal and Replacement of Administrative Buildings

\$1.112 million

With the expansion of the Puuhonua o Honaunau National Park to include the Kiilae Village, the Park's administrative buildings are no longer up to the task of supporting this national historical and cultural resource. This funding will help to ensure that the Park will be able to meet the needs of the visiting public, while at the same time preserving this unique site for the future.

Preservation of Kalaupapa's Historic Buildings

\$3.928 million

"Kalaupapa holds a special place in the history of our State and the nation," Senator Inouye said. "While modern medical science may have tamed the scourge of Hansen's disease, we will continue to face new threats from illness. Preserving the historic buildings of Kalaupapa will ensure that our State and our nation will never forget the importance of compassion and mercy as the virtues that must always accompany the science of medicine."

Expansion of James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge

\$2 million

"Hawaii should be proud of the Campbell National Wildlife Refuge," Senator Inouye said. "Our plan for expansion will provide habitat for endangered water birds and flood control for the residents of Oahu's north shore. By answering the needs of humanity and wildlife, more federal funding is being made available to purchase lands to protect our community from flooding and our wildlife for future generations."

Brown Tree Snake (BTS) Control

\$2.7 million

Notwithstanding the Bush Administration's lack of support, continued funding is being made available to support the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Transportation, and the Interior, the Commonwealth of the

Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the Territory of Guam, and the State of Hawaii to prevent distribution of BTS from Guam through construction of barriers around ports, trapping, detector dog teams, and other operational programs in Guam, the CNMI, and Hawaii. Work will also continue into new trapping and biocontrol techniques.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

“While the earmarks and formula funding for Hawaii highway and transit projects will be resolved in conference between the House and Senate at which time I will have more to report, Hawaii already stands to receive more than \$29 million in federal transit funding, as well as funding to begin the building of new air traffic control towers in Kona and Lihue airports, and to ensure the continued support for Essential Air Service to Hana, Kalaupapa, and Kamuela,” Inouye stated.

Transit Formula Funds *\$29,241,335*

Trans-related Improvements for Honolulu *\$16.9 million*

Funds previously appropriated for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) were reprogrammed for bus and bus facilities. The funds would be used to redesign Kuhio Avenue, add a bus lane in each direction on Ala Moana Boulevard, add a bus lane addition in each direction on Kalia Road, purchase hybrid buses, and implement software for bus traffic signal prioritization.

Kapolei Interchange Complex *\$3 million*

Funds previously appropriated were redesignated for improvements to the Kapolei Interchange Complex. The funding would be used to reduce traffic congestion in the rapidly growing Kapolei area. The growth has strained the area’s transportation and school infrastructure.

Essential Air Service *\$2,174,784*

The appropriation would be used to fully fund the continuation of the Essential Air Service (EAS) Program, which provides subsidies to air carriers serving the small airports that are vital links to the remote communities of Hana, Kalaupapa, and Kamuela.

Kona Air Traffic Control Tower

\$2 million

The appropriation would be used for site selection and design of a new 125-foot air traffic control tower at Kona International Airport to replace the existing 50-foot tower which is more than 30 years old. Ideally situated when the runway was 6,500 feet long, the extension of the runway to more than 11,000 feet, has created visibility problems.

Lihue Air Traffic Control Tower

\$2 million

The funding would be used for site selection and design of a new standard design air traffic control tower at Lihue Airport. The existing tower was built more than 30 years ago, before jetliners served the Island of Kauai. Since the construction of the tower, the runway has been extended and a new instrument landing runway has been constructed, which makes it difficult to see the primary instrument runway.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Hawaii High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)

\$2.5 million

This appropriation would continue the HIDTA program, which serves as a federal, State, and local coordination umbrella for counter-drug efforts in Hawaii. Hawaii HIDTA initiatives include a Joint Investigative Support and Intelligence Center, Hawaii Airport Task Force, and increased intelligence operations on the Islands of Hawaii and Kauai which has helped make a difference in the fight against crystal meth statewide.

The following are other Hawaii-related projects earmarked for funding:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RELATED AGENCIES

Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions

\$1.75 million

This funding is part of a \$3.5 million appropriation for the Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions grant program. The purpose of this program is to strengthen educational activities, including applied research and community development projects, at universities and colleges with students of Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian ancestry. This year, grants awarded to eligible Hawaii institutions will focus on activities that lead to the development of value-added agricultural products, overseas markets, and Native Hawaiian-owned production and marketing businesses.

Tropical Aquaculture Research

\$1,583,800

The Oceanic Institute will use these funds to continue its Tropical Aquaculture Research program, which focuses on feeds, nutrition, and the global competitiveness of the domestic aquaculture industry.

Hawaii Agriculture Research Center

\$936,000

The Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC) focuses on improving the efficiency of sugarcane production, developing new products from sugarcane, and supporting the expansion of diversified agriculture in Hawaii. HARC's ongoing projects include completing the genetic fingerprinting for coffee, pineapple, macadamia nuts, and papaya; identifying the genes responsible for fungal resistance in papaya; and supporting a sugarcane breeding program.

Agriculture Development and Resource Conservation

\$850,000

This appropriation would be used to further the expansion to other islands of this successful agricultural development and resource conservation program. The program was initiated on Molokai and has been used to help reduce high levels of unemployment in the Molokai Native Hawaiian homestead community. The project, Tri-Isle Resource Conservation and Development, continues to operate intensive training sessions to instill in new entrepreneurs the skills necessary for establishing and sustaining new agriculture-related businesses. This initiative will extend to Maui, Oahu, Kauai and the Big Island to support farmers and entrepreneurs.

Wildlife Services Office, Pest and Disease Management

\$800,000

These funds will be used to continue the operation of a State Wildlife Services Office in Hawaii, which provides on-site coordination of activities to control pests and diseases in Hawaii and the American Pacific, and for expanding efforts to control coqui frog infestations. A maximum of \$400,000 will be available to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to coordinate and operate a comprehensive brown tree snake prevention and detection program for Hawaii and to initiative eradication and control of the coqui frog and other alien species.

Pineapple Nematode and Papaya Ringspot

\$586,000

The funds will be used to monitor and refine control of the papaya ringspot virus, and to expand the techniques and knowledge obtained from this program to other diseases and pests.

Agriculture Development in American Pacific **\$490,000**

This program addresses common Pacific island-based agriculture and community issues through cooperative research, extension, and instruction programs that are culturally appropriate, socially acceptable, economically viable, and environmentally compatible. The program's objective is to help Pacific region residents live healthier and more productive lives by further developing their agricultural skills and knowledge.

Floriculture Industry **\$355,000**

These funds will be used to support industry-directed research projects to develop new varieties of tropical flowers with unique appearances, that are disease resistant, and have long shelf lives. These characteristics are critical to the floriculture industry's ability to remain competitive in the global marketplace. Plans for the coming year include continuing an aggressive, accelerated breeding program for potted flowering plants, such as orchid and anthurium, and developing protocols to combat invasive species.

Women in Technology **\$313,000**

This is a technical assistance and workforce training project designed to assist small businesses on Maui, Molokai, and Lanai in the recruitment of women and minorities, groups that are underrepresented in technology-related careers. A Rural Business Enterprise Grant will provide the funding.

Nontoxic Fruit Fly Control **\$278,200**

These funds will continue the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources' collaborative work on developing effective and nontoxic methods to control Tephritid fruit flies and to expand efforts to control and eradicate multiple pests that limit exporting.

Minor Crop Pest Control **\$278,000**

The funds will be used by the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to develop environmentally compatible methods to control pests and diseases in tropical and subtropical agricultural systems. Plans for the coming year include continued studies on the impact of spraying hot water on foliage of red ginger to control insect pests on plants intended for export.

Rodent Control **\$240,000**

The National Wildlife Research Center, Hilo Field Station, will use these funds to support efforts to control rodents in agricultural areas.

Subterranean Termite

\$141,500

Termites continue to be the most economically destructive insect pests in Hawaii and the American Pacific. These funds will be used to continue research to understand termite biology and ecology in Hawaii, develop environmentally-friendly control methods that stop termites from destroying structures, and prevent new termite infestations from spreading throughout the Pacific.

Diversified Agriculture

\$113,000

These funds will be used to continue public-private efforts to expand diversified agriculture in Hawaii. The overall objective of this project is to accelerate the commercialization of high-value agricultural products. This initiative has fostered markets for kava and vegetables grown in Hawaii, and supported research on pineapple and protea. Activities for the upcoming year include studying food safety technologies, and the effects of temperature, pressure, and time on fruits and vegetables.

Multicropping Strategies for Aquaculture

\$110,000

The goal of this project is to assist private sector aquaculture operations to research and develop high quality fresh and processed natural food, fiber, and healthcare products derived from Hawaii's aquaculture and mariculture resources. The primary focus area will be on aquaculture plants through developing new culture technologies for aquatic plants targeted for the food, fiber, and healthcare markets; expanding and diversifying the number of aquatic plants currently being cultivated in Hawaii; developing technologies to improve the shelf life of cultured plant products; developing post-harvest technologies for value-added products; and supporting marketing strategies appropriate for expansion and diversification of existing products, new products, or both.

Hawaii Plant Materials Center

\$108,000

These funds will enable the Hawaii Plant Materials Center to expand its seed production, continue seed production training in the community, and increase seed deliveries to the Island of Kahoolawe. The Center propagates native plants with the dual objective of supporting the federal cleanup and re-vegetation of Kahoolawe, and establishing economically competitive native plant nurseries. The Center's achievements include developing a 20-acre nursery on Molokai.

Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations—Maui

At Senator Inouye's request, language was included that underscores the need to fund projects that would recharge groundwater aquifers, promote efficient irrigation, and win greater public support for water conservation and the recycling of wastewater. The language also underscores the need to complete the following watershed projects on Maui: Lower Hamakua Ditch Watershed, Upcountry Maui Watershed, Lahaina Watershed, and the Wailuku-Alenaio Watershed.

Rural Development–Oahu

Senator Inouye’s colleagues also agreed to his request to include language to address changes made in the definition of rural areas under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. “Because of definition changes, many areas on Oahu that were previously classified as rural were deemed ineligible for assistance from the Department of Agriculture’s Rural Community Advancement Program,” Senator Inouye said. “If Oahu is excluded from further assistance, there will be a shortfall in financial assistance to support the growth of economic development and essential community facilities in its rural areas because in most cases the dollar amount of assistance needed for Oahu’s rural projects exceeds what other federal agencies and Hawaii State programs can provide.”

Kauai Island Utility Cooperative

At Senator Inouye’s request, language was included to clarify that Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) is eligible for grant assistance under the Rural Electrification Act, which provides grant assistance to communities with extremely high energy costs. Kauai has the highest energy cost for communities of comparable size.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES

Game Mammal and Endangered Species Management ***\$750,000***

These funds will be used to provide local communities with the resources to develop and implement endangered species and game mammal management projects. This program helps to resolve the bitter conflict between local hunting communities and environmental groups, which in turn has prevented long term solutions from being achieved. The increased funding will allow the program to support communities throughout the State, and allow for innovative approaches, such as reforestation projects to expand available habitat for endangered species.

Native Hawaiian Culture and the Arts Program (NHCAP) ***\$750,000***

NHCAP’s efforts are focused on assisting Hawaiians to be practitioners of their culture in a rapidly changing multi-cultural world. Four priorities support these efforts: increase access to resources, provide opportunities to learn and practice, provide opportunities to celebrate the culture, and create partnerships to enhance the NHCAP’s efforts. The four priorities are achieved through a network of Cultural Learning Centers linked electronically to a Resource Center at the Bishop Museum.

Aid to the State of Hawaii for Invasive Species

\$700,000

With this funding, the Fish and Wildlife Service could increase its ability to deal with invasive species issues within the State of Hawaii by providing federal match funding for new State invasive species initiatives through the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), providing funding to continue support of collaborative, interagency, and community-based initiatives to control invasive species on a county level, and by providing funding for high priority projects that address the control of specific established or incipient invasive species in Hawaii, such as *Miconia*.

Complete Acquisition of Palmyra Atoll

\$600,000

These funds would be used to complete the acquisition of Palmyra Atoll from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The purchase and ownership of remaining lands held by TNC would significantly enhance the FWS' ability to manage the atoll's natural resources, particularly addressing the very serious threats of invasive rats and a scale insect that is killing one of the Pacific's last stands of *Pisonia* forestland. In addition, TNC and FWS are working closely with a group of seven scientific research institutions to establish the Palmyra Research Consortium, including: University of Hawaii, Stanford University, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, University of California Santa Barbara, University of California Irvine, California Academy of Sciences, and the American Natural History Museum. This transfer to FWS will enhance its ability to facilitate and monitor scientific research activities on the atoll.

Exploratory Wells and Hydrological Data Collection

\$450,000

The objective of this initiative is to supplement hydrologic data collection in Hawaii. In the past, funding has been focused on exploratory wells, but now, a broader range of activities is necessary to ensure the integrity of Hawaii's supply of drinking water over the long term. A continuing shortage of State, county, and federal funds has resulted in a decline in the number of stations that measure streamflow, rainfall, and ground water records. For example, the number of gauges that provide a continuous measure of stream flow has declined from 197 in 1966 to 66 in 2003. Additional funding to support hydrologic data collection is needed to prevent further erosion of the network and permit data collection in areas where current water resource issues require additional technical information.

University of Hawaii Volcanic Processes Study

\$450,000

This funding will support the cooperative partnership between Hawaii Volcanoes Observatory (HVO) and the University of Hawaii Center for Study of Active Volcanoes (CSAV). In addition to the basic activities of the partnership, the additional funding will be used to acquire and install better monitoring equipment on Mauna Loa, to develop a Volcano Hazards Data Center, and for new lava flow

mapping and hazard assessment along Kilauea's east rift zone. This research partnership is a dynamic one that is driven by the needs of communities on the Island of Hawaii, and it uses the best available scientific understanding of volcanic processes to meet disaster management and planning needs.

**DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE,
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, GENERAL GOVERNMENT, AND
RELATED AGENCIES**

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Alien Species Action Plan

\$3 million

The appropriation would be used to continue the implementation of the federal Alien Species Action Plan (ASAP) governing the State of Hawaii and air carriers serving Hawaii to prevent the introduction of alien species through aircraft serving Hawaii. Under the ASAP, aircraft and cargo must be inspected and cleared of alien species upon arrival. The funds would help facilitate the inspection process in order to avoid disruption of scheduled air service.

Honolulu International Airport Air Traffic Control Tower Improvement ***\$359,000***

This funding would be used for improvements to the control tower to enhance the quality of the work environment for air traffic controllers and other support personnel who provide vital safety services for air traffic to and from Hawaii.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Hawaii IRS Office Staffing

At Senator Inouye's request, language was included that directs the Internal Revenue Service to maintain fully staffed positions in each of the Taxpayer Advocate Service centers for Hawaii and Alaska, including a Collection Technical Adviser and an Examination Technical Adviser, in addition to the current complement of office staff. The report language is necessary to address the difficulties experienced by Hawaii and Alaska taxpayers in receiving services from the U.S. mainland and tax assistance from the national toll-free line.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Repairs and Alterations to the Federal Building in Hilo

\$5.133 million